

For immediate release

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Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid American Airlines Employees

The state's Rapid Response Team has been activated to help the American Airlines employees in St. Louis who will be laid off later this year.

About 550 pilots and 950 flight attendants will lose their jobs beginning October 12 and continuing through December. American cited poor economic conditions as the reason for the lay-offs.

The Rapid Response team is composed of representatives from the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE). The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing training and re-employment services. These services are free of charge.

The Rapid Response team will assist the laid-off workers in obtaining these services, which are provided through the local Missouri Career Center. Department of Economic Development Director Joseph L. Driskill has directed the team to provide re-employment support.

"We are concerned about the impact these layoffs will have on these pilots and flight attendants, and promise to do everything we can to help them find new jobs quickly," Driskill said. "I encourage the American Airlines employees to take advantage of these free services offered through the Rapid Response team. Our career counselors have excellent resources and provide outstanding assistance."

The Rapid Response Team and the Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling, resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD are working with American Airlines to ensure that dislocated workers have access to Career Center services. Meetings are scheduled with workers to explain how these services can help them find a new job. The meetings will be held 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Thursday (September 5), 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday (September 7), and 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Tuesday (September 10). The meetings will be held at the American Airlines Training Center located at 11495 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis.

Employers interested in hiring American Airlines workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team can call DWD at 1-800-877-8698.

Editor's Note: Rapid Response meetings are not open to the public/media. If you have questions, please contact Jim Grebing at 573-751-9065.